(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated/proposed to be formulated by Government to increase apple production in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The production of apples in the country has increased during the past three years except for Himachal Pradesh. There was low production of apples in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2006-07 *i.e.* 2,68,402 MT whereas it increased to 5,92,576 MT in 2007-08, the highest ever till date. During 2008-09, there was normal production of apples *i.e.* 5,10,200 MT. The production of apples in the country during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The reason for low production of apples in Himachal Pradesh during 2006-07 was because of low chilling hours due to less snowfall and precipitation during the winter season preceding the crop season.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz*., Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) for holistic development of horticulture to enhance production and productivity of horticultural crops including apples. Under this scheme, assistance is being provided for area expansion, establishment of nurseries for raising quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, nutrient and water management etc.

Statement

Area and production of apples

A = Area (000' ha.)
P = Production (000' MT)

State/Year	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	A	P	A	P	A	P
Arunachal Pradesh	9.8	9.8	10.8	9.8	10.8	9.8
Himachal Pradesh	91.8	268.4	94.5	592.6	94.7	510.2
Jammu and Kashmir	119.4	1222.2	126.4	1268.5	133.1	1332.8
Nagaland	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05
Uttarakhand	30.6	123.3	32.2	130.5	32.7	132.3
TOTAL:	251.6	1623.7	263.9	2001.5	271.3	1985.1

Assistance to farmers of Himachal Pradesh

3056. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deficient rains have severely affected the crops of maize, apple, off-season vegetables and other agricultural products in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh has sought additional relief from Union Government for farmers and fruit growers;

(d) if so, the response of Union Government thereto;

(e) whether Government has agreed to extend additional assistance to the State Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by when this additional relief is likely to be given to Government of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that deficient rains has caused severe losses to the crops of maize, apple, off-season vegetables and other agricultural products in the State amounting to about Rs. 872.36 crore.

(c) to (f) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State with financial and logistic support. The State Governments have ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures. For additional assistance from National Calamity contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities of severe nature, the State Governments are required to submit a Memorandum. No Memorandum for assistance from the NCCF to deal with the situation arising out of deficit rainfall in the state during South-West Monsoon, 2009 has so far been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The existing norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF, *inter-alia*, include assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% and above.

Famine in the country

†3057. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States where famine situation prevails due to lack of rain;

(b) the amount of financial aid being allocated by Government to famine affected States to help them in tackling the famine situation; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No report on famine situation has been received from any State so far due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2009.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Assam

3058. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.